

MATTER OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

By Hon. Margaret Rwabushaija Namubiru (**Workers' Representative**)

Madam Speaker; I stand on a matter of National importance;

Madam Speaker and Honorable Colleagues; the mandate of the Ministry of Education and Sports is to provide quality Education and sports services in the country, which are constitutional obligations for the Ugandan State and Government.

Madam Speaker, it is however very disappointing that some schools continue to operate outside this mandate and are providing sub-standard education to the children of this Nation without check.

A case in point is Bridge International Academies, a for-profit education business which was approved to operate for only one school, and that was about two years ago but has since expanded to 62 Schools ranging from pre-primary, primary and secondary. The points of concern are as follows;

- Firstly, the use of digital technology to distribute scripted educational content created by curriculum designers in USA, via tablet computers and ignoring the National Curriculum diminishes teacher-learners' interaction which is a vital component in learning.

- **Secondly Madam Speaker,** there is lack of qualified academic staff. The majority of the teachers have not completed any teaching qualification whatsoever and they do not even hold a teaching licence. They are mostly senior four dropouts and this definitely has a bearing on the quality of education offered.

- Further still **Madam Speaker,** these teachers receive around 200 contact hours of training to learn the schools system and how to deliver the

scripted lessons they receive from the tablet and then teach as if by remote control. This cannot be adequate training for a teacher who is supposed to train others.

Madam Speaker, I came to learn of this through Education International that carried out a research recently and I have also been privileged to have served on this Global body of Education International for a period of three years ie...2012 to 2015.

It has been **realized Madam Speaker**, that Ugandans are being hoodwinked by these so called International schools and to be specific; Bridge international Academies which are providing an education to our children; of which the quality has not yet been ascertained. Madam Speaker, are the regulators doing their work?

Madam Speaker, I therefore would like to urge the Ministry of Education and sports to take keen interest in the said Bridge International Schools which are spreading like a wildfire and ensure that they are thoroughly inspected and if they are **not** conforming to the Educational standards of the country, their licence should be revoked immediately; lest we risk the future of our children.

Thank you Madam Speaker.